



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

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Arizona Department of Public Safety announces 20 agencies to be part of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team *VCAT already records successes*

On May 12, 2008, Governor Janet Napolitano directed the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional statewide plan to identify and arrest individuals with outstanding felony warrants. In response, DPS has created VCAT – the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team. Today, DPS Director Roger Vanderpool announced that the following 20 law enforcement agencies have agreed to join VCAT:

- Flagstaff Police Department
- Phoenix Police Department
- El Mirage Police Department
- Peoria Police Department
- Buckeye Police Department
- Coconino County Sheriff's Department
- Graham County Sheriff's Department
- Pinal County Sheriff's Department
- Yuma County Sheriff's Department
- Oro Valley Police Department
- Tucson Police Department
- Arizona Department of Corrections
- Probation and Parole Division of Maricopa County
- U.S. Marshal's Service
- Surprise Police Department
- Glendale Police Department
- Prescott Police Department
- Winslow Police Department
- Navajo County Sheriff's Department
- Pima County Sheriff's Department

Participating agencies will meet next month to coordinate strategies for attacking the problem and reducing the large number of outstanding felony warrants in Arizona. Particular emphasis will be on finding felons associated with illegal immigration operations.

Press Inquiries:

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The VCAT has already been productive. Since May 23, 2008, DPS along with the assistance of the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department, Avondale Police Department, Surprise Police Department, El Mirage Police Department and the U.S. Marshal's Office served **41** arrests on felony warrants along with **6** sex offender warrants.

"These 20 participating law enforcement agencies are demonstrating their commitment to sharing resources to get the job done," said Governor Napolitano. "This kind of cooperation will allow us to take the most violent offenders with felony warrants off the streets. It's a smart way to approach the problem."

"Arresting the most violent fugitives is a major priority of Governor Napolitano and the Arizona Department of Public Safety. We thank all the above listed law enforcement agencies statewide. They stand ready to assist us as we track down these criminals and get them off the streets so communities throughout Arizona will be safer," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

This will be a collaborative effort among local, county, state and federal agencies across the state, with DPS harnessing its statewide resources to reach across the state and assist agencies throughout Arizona with the apprehension of fugitives.

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